

James Leland Flanagan

James Leland Flanagan; son of Sam Morrill Flanagan and Ora Tugwell was born December 7, 1926 in Pitt County, NC and died February 16, 1987 in Bath, NC. He married Ann Horton on February 3, 1951. He and Ann had a daughter and two sons.

Leland, James Leland, or “Jimmy”, grew up in the farming community of Farmville, NC. He went through school in Farmville, graduating from high school in 1947. He enjoyed, as he was growing up, playing and visiting with the Flanagans and Tugwell cousins. That was recreation; visiting cousins on Sunday. Leland was such a good teacher and mentor that he made a lasting impression on many of his cousins including AC Turnage, Martin Flanagan, Clarence Taylor, and Jay Flanagan – who all thought he was a special person. In that respect, he was much like his father. Both of them were favorites with the family.

He served in the Navy during WW II in the Pacific aboard a tanker. One of the most traumatic experiences he had was when his ship was caught in a typhoon. Leland had joined the Navy at age 16, as he claimed, to avoid milking the cow every morning before going to school. Oh how he hated that! At his age in the Navy, he was a “Coffee Boy” he said, and learned to play cards much to his mothers sorrow. He was an excellent poker and bridge player. It was only after his service time he completed his high school education.

Leland lived with his family on what is now known as the Moye Turnage Road in the Farmville, NC community. When Leland joined the Navy, the family moved to the Davis Hotel to manage it because he had worked as hard as his father and it was more difficult for his father to keep farming. One of the things he did on the farm was to grow a crop of sugar cane and he was so proud of it when he had produced a barrel of molasses. One cold morning, he turned the spigot on to fill a jar and forgot it! When he came home from school the barn floor was covered with molasses! He was heartbroken!

Jimmy’s interests were his family, and antiques. He was interested in history. All of the family vacations were spent visiting historical sites up and down the east cost of the U.S. and especially Virginia. Their favorite place in the world was Williamsburg. They stayed in the restored “quarter houses” every chance they got. Leland loved everything there. After touring all the houses and plantations, they loved just walking the streets and gardens – everywhere they traveled.

After joining Aileen and Graham in the landscaping and construction business in 1956 in Greenville, NC, Leland returned to his first love – working “outside”. He had been a cost accountant for the Pitt Greene Electric Membership and hated office work. Of course he was great with figures and did all the tax returns for the businesses, Aunt Seba and the Jeffersons for years until they hired a C.P.A. His two years at Hardbargers business School in Raleigh came in good.